



**Christ Episcopal Church**

**The Rev'd John Kevern**

## Senior Warden's Corner

### MOVING ON

Once again, CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH is in transition. Rev. Siobhan E. Patterson was called to be the Associate Rector at St. James Episcopal Church in Leesburg, Virginia. We wish Mother Siobhan well in her new endeavor and are THANKFUL of her time with us and the many good things accomplished during the past three years. In her last service with us on November 18, 2012, Mother Siobhan gave Christ Episcopal Church a gift of a beautiful print of the New River Gorge Bridge. The Print has been appropriately hung above the piano in "Patterson Hall".

Now, we must move FORWARD with the FAITH that OUR FUTURE is BRIGHT, and that, by GIVING of our time and talents, this HOUSE OF GOD will continue to flourish.

Father William Thomas, who led us in prayer on Veteran's Day, praised our "PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE" for its unique and thoughtful inclusion of so many people. That COMMITMENT to CARING FOR OTHERS is obvious to me every Sunday when WE SHARE "THE PEACE" and I WITNESS the GENUINE GOODWILL and BLESSINGS we bestow upon each other...because we see ourselves as a church FAMILY! Truly, I think it would continue until every person extended the peace to every other person in attendance if not for our Choir Director, Carolyn Kerr's mindful chimes signaling "time".

While we begin the process of finding a new priest-in-charge for our congregation, I am GLAD to announce that BEGINNING December 2nd, we will have FATHER JOHN KEVERN join us as our supply clergy through December and January. FATHER JOHN hails from Rochester, New York, but he has spent the past few months at St. Matthews in Charleston, WV. He has been a priest for thirty-two (32) years and earned a doctorate (Ph.D. with distinction) in Christian Theology from the University of Chicago. Father John will provide us with much more than simply leading worship services. He will provide pastoral visitation, have office hours and conduct administrative duties. He has agreed to "rough it" and live in the Rectory while staying here (which saves us money). Please extend a WARM WELCOME to Father John and make him feel at HOME during his stay with us.

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Also, on Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, REV. PAMELA SHIER will be here to lead us in worship. We really APPRECIATE all

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the time she has DEVOTED to us when Mother Siobhan was in treatment.

TONI BALENGER has agreed to continue to volunteer her valuable time and talent as our CHURCH TREASURER! WE ARE TRULY BLESSED by her unselfish commitment to this church! Toni and our Parish Coordinator, Michelle Sayers, are currently working together to coordinate duties and make the job easier for any future treasurer.

Special thanks to JEFF GREELY for donating his time and talent as an electrician and fixing the light fixture in the Choir Room!

As we approach our annual Parish Meeting, I ask each of YOU to consider how YOU might GIVE of your TIME and TALENT to make CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH BETTER and KEEP it STRONG, viable and a GROWING source of both SPIRITUAL UNDERSTANDING and CHRISTIAN OUTREACH. We are all stewards of GOD! One of GOD'S FAVORITE places to hide TREASURE IS within US. We enter the CHRISTMAS and ADVENT seasons seeking PEACE, HARMONY, JOY, FULFILMENT and RENEWAL OF OUR SPIRIT. What better time to contemplate how each of us can contribute toward this church's REINVIGORATION.

We are all individuals...but TOGETHER WE truly BECOME so much MORE!

Peace,  
Neal Jay Hamilton  
Senior Warden

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## Things Are Happening

By Neal Hamilton

As most of you know, we do not presently have a Junior Warden. However, since I accepted the responsibility as your Senior Warden, I have tried diligently to maintain and improve the Church property. In that regard, you may have noticed several things have happened around the church:

- 1) The two lights over the choir in the Sanctuary have been fixed. They no longer go "on and off" during service.
- 2) Locked thermostat boxes have been placed over the controls in Patterson Hall, so that the regulation of heating and cooling in that part of the church is carefully controlled.
- 3) Carpet has been placed under the epistle lectern to cover the water stains and damaged finish.
- 4) The parking lot lines have been repainted.
- 5) The leak and fill valve in the narthex bathroom have been repaired . The toilet still takes a long time to fill, but it works).
- 6) The air filters on all of the furnaces have been replaced.
- 7) The church library has been cleaned up and a coffee area created.
- 8) The front hedges were trimmed again in late fall.
- 9) New locks were installed to the church office and record storage closet.
- 10) Batteries were installed in the clocks in Patterson Hall and the children's classroom.
- 11) The dry erase board in the Junior Youth room has been re-hung, and the painting and trim completed.
- 12) The "unfinished" area in the children's classroom has been painted (using the closest paint we had). It doesn't look perfect, but it is a vast improvement over the bare wood that previously existed.
- 13) The piano in Patterson Hall has been "tuned".
- 14) The print donated to the church by Mother Siobhan has been hung in Patterson Hall.
- 15) The old doors cluttering the hallway of the children's education rooms have been removed and stored.
- 16) A new ping-pong net has been installed on the ping-pong table in the youth recreation room, and some new ping-pong balls purchased.
- 17) All of the choir and acolyte robes have been cleaned and organized.

Some of these things may affect you or your children, but all of them affect the well-being of our church. I am hopeful that the near future will bring us some additional improvements to make it more functional. Presently, the vestry is finalizing plans to provide new "handicap accessible" entrances to both the front and parish hall. Additionally, I am hopeful the vestry will approve the installation of new handrails on the steps from the church to the bottom floor. If you see something that needs to be fixed or that you want to suggest be done, please do not hesitate to tell me.

# Announcements

## **SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT**

Father John Kevern's first Sunday with us is on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please extend to him a warm welcome.

## **VOLUNTEERS**

Looking for a way to serve? Contact the Parish Coordinator (366-3471) to become a Liturgical Assistant.

## **COFFEE HOUR SIGN-UPS**

Don't forget that Coffee Hour Sign-ups are still available! Nothing fancy, as simple as donuts, cookies, coffee, and juice! It's about the fellowship more than the food!

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

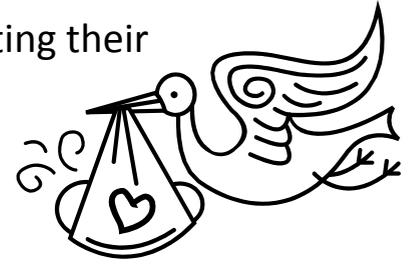
The preschool class meets on Sunday mornings at 9:45am in the Christian Education classrooms. During this time, a discussion group for parents will be held each week in the Library.

## **UPCOMING/CURRENT EVENTS**

- Bible study and lunch with Jim Kerr every Wednesday, at 11:00am in the Parish Hall. Contact Jim (366-2580) for more information.
- “Kristel Bell Method” music program for children. Carolyn Kerr is offering music instruction to children 4 and up during the Sunday morning sermon, creed, confession, and the peace. Each child will learn to ring their bell according to color cards. Please contact Carolyn (366-2580) for more information.
- Outreach From Within Dinner:** Our newly formed outreach committee is planning a congregational dinner to be held on Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in the Parish Hall to kick off our outreach campaign for 2013. The goal is to have 100 in attendance ( your families and friends are invited as well)! There is no charge, but the committee invites you to bring a new, unwrapped toy for a child (ages 0-12) for a donation from our parish to a Christmas Toy Drive for children in need. Please make your reservation with the Parish Coordinator, 366-3471. More information and personal invitations to come.
- Current Outreach Projects:** Hunters Helping Feed the Hungry and Pop Tops for Ronald McDonald House.
- December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012** – Annual Christmas Cookie Exchange and special coffee hour.

## Congratulations!

Martha Hall's son Matt and daughter-in-law Katie are expecting their first child in February.



AND

Ray and Diana Louge are expecting their second daughter in March.

### In the Spirit

By Barb Barkley

Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, will be our annual Christmas Cookie Exchange with Special Coffee Hour. What is needed is folks to make at least three dozen cookies. The object is to give everyone up to one dozen cookies of their choice, with the cost being a "free will" offering. This money will be given to our five paid employees as a Christmas bonus. It is just a small way of saying "Thanks" for all they do!

Also, this year, we will have 2 containers – one marked "Salvation Army" the other "The Episcopal Relief Fund". This year E.R.F. has a donor who will match funds dollar for dollar. Thank you!

Please contact Barb Barkley for more information.

(w) 304.367.0232

(h) 304.366.7149

© 304.816.2112



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### Friendly Reminder

Our Annual Meeting is coming up fast. Please remember to turn in your pledge cards so we can work on streamlining the budget.

## Bible Study

By Jim Kerr

All persons interested in an in depth study of the Holy Bible are invited to our Wednesday, 11:00am fellowship and luncheon in the Patterson Parish Hall. I will lead us through the pages of our Biblical quest of our Christian beginnings. Carolyn will serve a delightful noontime meal. Warm and wonderful friendship will be enjoyed by all and we can be on our way by one o'clock.

The December study will focus on Isaiah, chapters 1-11. Our theme is "The Religious Abandonment of This Present Generation" and "The Hope of Emmanuel".

### Average Sunday Attendance

November: 48

### Financial Report

November Income: \$7779

November Expenses: \$11532

## HYMN NOTES

By Carolyn Kerr

Music is an integral part of our worship experience. Since hymn singing is an all-inclusive part of our worship, I thought the story about some of the hymns would make the hymn more meaningful. This month Christmas hymns will be the focus.

"Joy to the World" --words by Isaac Watts and the melody by G.F. Handel, arranged by Lowell Mason. This hymn is an interpretation of Psalm 98 which says: "Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth (verse 4)." Watts determined that the real reason for shouting joyfully to the Lord was that the Messiah has come to redeem us. Thus the words to the hymn were born.

The melody comes from "The Messiah" by G.F. Handel. The first part comes from the chorus, "Lift us your heads", and the second part which is set to words "and heaven and nature sing" comes from the introduction to "Comfort ye, my people." This hymn will be sung on December 30, 2012.

The Children's Bell Choir will ring "O Little Town of Bethlehem at the 6:00 pm Christmas Eve Service. This hymn was written by Phillip Brooks who was known as the "Prince of the Pulpit" and was also the Episcopal Bishop for Massachusetts. The hymn was written in 1868. Brooks had gone on a trip to the Holy Land during his ministry. He worshipped on Christmas Eve in Bethlehem at the Church of the Nativity which is thought to be the place of Christ's birth. This experience made a lasting impression on him. Three years after his trip, he wrote the words to the hymn for the children's Christmas Program in his church. He gave the poem to his organist who struggled to write a melody for the words. Finally during the night of December 23rd, the melody came to him. The hymn became a tremendous favorite for his church. Phillip Brooks was so thrilled with the tune that it was named "St. Louis" in honor of his organist, Lewis Redner.

## Church Contact List

Website: [www.fairmontepiscopal.com](http://www.fairmontepiscopal.com)

### Interim Rector

The Rev. John Kevern  
585.766.3768

### Parish Coordinator

Michelle Sayers,  
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## Vestry

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Toni Balenger (*non-voting treasurer*)  
304.363.7825  
[nonatoniwv@yahoo.com](mailto:nonatoniwv@yahoo.com)

## Liturgical Assistants Calendar

If you cannot be at church on one of your appointed days, please make arrangements for a replacement. Ushers should be in place at 10:15 to serve as greeters and provide assistance to those needing help. Lectors can find their weekly readings here: <http://www.lectionarypage.net/>

Date	Service	Eucharistic Ministers	Lectors	Acolytes	Sacristans	Ushers	Counters
12/2	10:30am Holy Eucharist	Lisa C.-B. Tara S.	Joyce H. Carrington R.	Brett M. Meredith M. Leah M.	Team 1 (Purple)	Kent B. Lenin L.	Bruce H. Lenin L.
12/9	10:30am Holy Eucharist	Jim K. Jude M.	Dede B. Carrington R.	Finn T. Nicolas G. Catherine B.	Team 2	Steed-Marsh Family	Beth G. David B.
12/16	10:30am Holy Eucharist	Lisa C.-B. Caroline C.	Kyle H. Meredith M.	Hunter B. Meredith M. Leah M.	Team 3	Baker Family	Bruce H. Tara S.
12/23	10:30am Holy Eucharist	Bruce H. Dot H.	Nikki L. Catherine B.	Brett M. Emma B. Catherine B.	Team 4	Glenn B. Kent B.	Neal H. Kent B.
12/24	Holy Eucharist	Neal H. Kyle H.	Barb B. Alec W.	Nikki L. Alec W. Abby W.	Team1	Glenn B. Lenin L.	Barb B. Lenin L.
12/30	10:30am Holy Eucharist	Caroline C. Tara S.	Anne P. Carrington R.	Brett M. Catherine B. Emma B.	Team 2	Baker Family	Tara S. David B.

Christ Episcopal Church  
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